

Message Text

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FOL RPT AMMAN 4257 ACTION SECSTATE 29 JUL 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4257

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TAGS: PGOV, JO, IZ, US, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN OFFICIAL MEETS WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN -
US-IRAQ RELATIONS

1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF BRIEFED ME JULY 28 ON MEETING
HIS BROTHER HAD WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN TIKRITI IN BAGHDAD.
SHARAF'S BROTHER, SHERIF FAWAZ SHARAF, JORDAN MINISTER OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS WAS IN BAGHDAD FOR ARAB MINISTERS OF
SPORTS MEETING.

2. SHARAF SAID SADDAM HAD TWO POINTS TO MAKE: (A) THAT PRESENT
POLICY BEING FOLLOWED BY STATES LIKE EGYPT AND SYRIA WHICH
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FAVORED NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEMS WAS
CERTAIN TO FAIL. SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS CONVINCED OF THIS AND
IRAQ WAS MERELY GOING TO SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE FAILURE
TO TAKE PLACE. AFTER THAT IT WOULD BE TIME FOR MILITANT
POLITICS TO TAKE OVER THE SITUATION. ISRAEL WOULD NEVER
YIELD IN NEGOTIATIONS. SECOND POINT: (B) WAS THAT IRAQ
HAD BEEN READY TO INDICATE IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO RECEIVING

US SECRETARY OF STATE WHEN US MOVED WITH REQUEST THAT UNDERSECRETARY HABIB VISIT BAGHDAD. AS A RESULT IRAQI GOVERNMENT AGREED TO RECEIVE HABIB, BUT IMPLIED SECRETARY STILL WELCOME.

3. ABDUL HAMID SHARAF (COURT CHIEF) MADE FOLLOWING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. HIS BROTHER WHO TALKED WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE IRAQI LEADER WAS SINCERE IN HIS BELIEF THAT PRESENT EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST WOULD FAIL AND DEEPLY CONVINCED OF CORRECTNESS OF IRAQI ANALYSIS. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD BEEN CAREFUL IN MAKING POINT ON FACT THAT SECRETARY WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME IN IRAQ TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT INDICATED THAT WELCOME STILL EXISTED. SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD RECALLED FACT THAT IRAQ RECEIVED A NUMBER OF WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE OFFICIAL FEELERS FOR A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY AND HAD BEEN READY TO ACCEPT WHEN US MOVED BY ASKING ABOUT HABIB VISIT. COURT CHIEF SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR SADDAM WAS COUNTING ON JORDAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO WASHINGTON.

4. I ASKED SHARAF IF THERE WAS NOT AN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN IRAQI POSITION ON THE PRESENT PEACE EFFORTS IN WHICH US HAS ASSUMED A MAJOR ROLE AND WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE SECRETARY OF STATE. HE SAID NO HE DID NOT BELIEVE SO. IRAQIS WERE OPEN TO COMMUNICATION AND DID NOT SEE THAT DIFFERING POLICIES OR ASSESSMENTS WERE NECESSARILY A BAR TO CONVERSATIONS.

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5. SHARAF ALSO MADE POINT THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IRAQ WAS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH JORDAN.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD.
PICKERING

UNQUOTE VANCE

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